

## Round II Program Guidelines Request for Waiver

Date:

Waiver Request #: 2

The City of Galveston Program, working with a local advisory committee, (Program) for the Hurricane Ike/Dolly Round II Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program recommends that it is in the best interest of the residents of City of Galveston to deviate from the Statewide Guidelines as written and therefore request a waiver of the Texas General Land Office, GLO, Round 2 Housing Program Guidelines.

The Guidelines state (Part B II C (Page 25 of 72)) that in relation to the Homeowner Opportunity Program (HOP), "Beneficiaries may not be relocated to FEMA-designated "High Risk" areas or areas of high minority or poverty concentration." Due to the size and nature of Galveston Island, the program would be better served by allowing more choice for residents who wish to relocate on Galveston Island, by allowing the relocation through existing home purchase or lot acquisition with a program home being constructed in FEMA high risk areas. This would include allowing mitigation utilizing funds consistent with the Round 2 Housing Guidelines reconstruction program of up to \$35,000 or \$60,000 depending on the required elevations.

[Optional: In addition, areas identified as 9-12 of the primary target areas located north of Broadway are being considered by the city for community redevelopment and could be included in plans to improve these neighborhoods to provide a higher opportunity area for existing homeowners. These would be almost exclusively lot acquisition and construction of a program home as there are few homes available for sale. The area may also have additional homes reconstructed by absent landowners whose homes were destroyed but may want to rebuild in place.]

In order to utilize the HOP program for these applicants, the program believes such a waiver is necessary. Given this, the Program will need this waiver to allow viable Fair Housing choice through relocation.

The City of Galveston Program respectfully requests that the GLO grant a waiver of the Round 2 Program Guidelines to allow for relocation of HOP applicants to FEMA high risk areas and [Primary Target areas 9-12] .

Submitted by:

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Kelly Huck, Project Manager, URS Corporation

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Approved by

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Jorge Ramirez, Deputy Commissioner, GLO

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